

Claim 9 (amended), lines 18-20, "the recess has side ..... Longitudinal direction" has been deleted. 5B 9-22-08

**Reasons for Allowance**

4. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

The prior art, including Japanese Patent No.: JP 5-38627 A (Honda) and US Patent No. 6,930,332 B2 (Hashimoto et al.), of record does not show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not teach a surface light emitting device or a linear light source combining:

- a square-shaped wiring board having open-ended channels defined by the component side of the wiring board and the adjacent reflectors on both sides of each of the light emitting elements; and the light emitting elements arranged along the longitudinal direction as recited in each of the amended independent claims 1, 7 and 9;

Each of Honda and Hashimoto et al. discloses a surface light emitting device including close reflective cavities, each receiving a light emitting element. None of the above indicated prior arts specifically teach any portion of the cavity not having a wall. Thus, neither in combination nor individually Honda and Hashimoto et al. discloses the surface light emitting device including open-ended channels defined by the component side of the circuit board and reflectors arranged on both sides of each of the light emitting elements.